

**BOOK REVIEW OF *THE NOTEBOOK*
WRITTEN BY NICHOLAS SPARKS**

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

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In English Departement, Faculty of Humanities

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by her without taking the results taking the results from other research in any unviersity, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in ciploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, July 2011

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

If something is meant to be, nothing can stop it from happening

(Anonymous)

For God is this only that whenever God intends a thing, then God says to it, "Be" and it becomes at once

(QS. Ya Sin – 82)

This Final Project is dedicated to my beloved mom and dad

Sri Yuli Anitawati S.Pd and Sudibyo S.Pd

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The writer realizes that this final project is still far from perfect. Therefore, the writer is opened to receive any criticism, suggestion and recommendation to make this final project better.

Finally, the writer expects that this final project entitled “ Book Review of The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks” will be useful and worthy to the readers.

Semarang, 03 July 2011

The Writer

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ABSTRAK

Final Project ini berjudul “Book Review of *The Notebook* written by Nicholas Sparks”. Final project ini bertujuan untuk mereview dan membahas kelemahan serta kelebihan dari novel *The Notebook*. Permasalahan yang dibahas dalam novel ini adalah tentang perjuangan cinta dari kedua tokoh utama untuk dapat bersatu kembali walaupun mereka sudah terpisah jarak dan waktu.

Dalam mengerjakan final project ini, penulis memperoleh data data dengan melakukan studi kepustakaan di perpustakaan serta melalui berbagai referensi melalui website, termasuk website resmi dari sang penulis.

Dari hasil penganalisaan, dapat disimpulkan bahwa perjuangan kedua tokoh utama untuk mendapatkan cinta mereka kembali memanglah tidak mudah, karena harus melalui berbagai macam rintangan dan halangan, bahkan di penghujung cerita, tokoh utama pria juga sempat akan kehilangan pujaan hatinya, walau akhirnya mereka bisa kembali bersatu.

Final project ini dibagi menjadi 4 bagian dimana pada Bab I dibahas pendahuluan yang

terdiri dari latar belakang penulisan, tujuan dari penulisan final project ini serta tercantum biografi dari penulis novel.

Pada Bab II dituliskan ringkasan dari novel yang akan dibahas. Sedangkan pada Bab III, terdapat review keseluruhan yang membahas kelebihan dan kekurangan dari novel *The Notebook* serta terdapat pula pembahasan mengenai motif yang dipakai dalam novel tersebut. Akhir dari analisis final project ini terangkum pada kesimpulan yang terdapat pada Bab IV di akhir bagian final project ini.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Writing

Understanding a literature work may not be as easy as many people think. Each person may have different perspectives or thoughts once they've read literature works. Literature definitely can't be separated from human's life. As Rene Wellek and Austin Warren stated in their book *Theory of Literature* (1997:44), "*Literature represents life, and life is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner of subjective world of the individual has also been object of literary imitation.*" Hence, literature is associated with all aspects of human's life in this universe including relationships between individuals or community as well as with the environment.

One of the most prestigious relationships is the one that involves the emotions of love between a man and a woman. Love relationship can inspire people to write such an incredible story. This is what happened to Nicholas Sparks, an American author who was inspired by his wife's grandparent's love life. He wrote a tender love story entitled "The Notebook". Sparks was really amazed by the enduring love relationships of Cathy's (his wife) grandparents, who had been married for about 67 years and yet still loved each other. He wished that by writing down this love story, his readers could really walk away with a renewed spirit of hope.

Sparks' novel "*The Notebook*" is one of his famous literary works. It is a very interesting novel which describes that unconditional love does exist. The story is about what would happen if two people are given second chance at the love of the lifetime. This novel also encourages the reader to realize how important the beloved ones in life. The

love theme which involves trust, hopes and loss made the writer decide to review this book to share the moral lessons from this novel.

B. The Objectives of Study

The writer has some purposes in reviewing Sparks' *The Notebook* novel:

1. To give a brief review about "*The Notebook*" novel
2. To explain the strength and weakness of "*The Notebook*" novel
3. To reveal the theme of the novel

C. Biography of Nicholas Sparks

As it is stated in Nicholas Sparks' official website, *nicholassparks.com*, Sparks was born in Omaha, Nebraska on December 31, 1965. Sparks had been living towns to towns until he finally settled down in Fair Oaks, California at the age of eight. He lived here through high school, graduated valedictorian in 1984, and received a full track scholarship to the University of Notre Dame. In this university, Sparks had finally written his first novel during his recovery time due to the accident he got as a part of a relay team. During that summer, he wrote a story though it was never published. Sparks graduated with high honors in 1988 and majored Business Finance.

Sparks married to a woman named Catherine at 1989. This couple met at the spring break 1988. While living in Sacramento, he wrote a second novel in that same year, though that novel wasn't published either. On the next three years, Sparks worked on variety jobs such as real estate appraisal, selling dental products by phone, and starting his own small manufacturing business which struggled from the beginning. Finally in 1990, collaborated with Billy Mills, he wrote a book entitled "*The Olympic Gold Medalist*", and it was published by Feather Publishing before later being picked up by Random House. Though the publicity was quite scant, the sales reached up to 50,000 copies in the first year of release. He began selling pharmaceuticals and moved from Sacramento, California to North Carolina in 1992. In 1994, at the age of 28, he wrote *The Notebook* over a period of six months. In October 1995, rights to *The Notebook* were sold to Warner Books. It was published in October 1996, and he followed that with *Message in a Bottle* (1998), *A Walk to Remember* (1999), *The Rescue* (2000), *A Bend in the Road* (2001), *Nights in Rodanthe* (2002), *The Guardian* (2003), *The Wedding* (2003), *True Believer* (2005), *At First Sight* (a sequel to *True Believer*) (2005), *Dear John* (2006), *The Choice* (2007), *The Lucky One* (2008) and a non-fiction memoir, *Three Weeks With My Brother* (2004), written with his brother, Micah. All of his books were published by Warner Books / Grand Central Publishing. All were domestic and international best sellers, and his work have been translated into more than 35 languages.

CHAPTER 2

SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

The story began with the introduction of the male main character, Noah Calhoun, who was living in a nursing home at the age of eighty. Every morning, he reads to an old woman, who often doesn't remember him, the same notebook which contains the story of an everlasting love. Then the readers were invited to live back in the early days when young Noah met a young energetic beautiful girl, Allie Nelson, in North Carolina. He started to fall for this girl from the very first sight. They spent summer perfectly together. Noah took Allie to a house built in 1772 and told her how he has always dreamed of buying and eventually fixing it someday. This couple was truly deeply in love.

Unfortunately, Allie's parents can't feel the love that their daughter has. Noah and Allie were torn apart due to the difference classes they come from. Nelsons is a wealthy and highly regarded family while Calhouns is such a poor and unfortunate. Noah started to write to Allie everyday for an entire year but none was replied. At last, he decided to write one last letter and to move on with his life. Soon after that, he went to take a part in World War II. After fourteen years of extensive separation, the lovers were reunited with an unbreakable bond of true love. However, things are not the same anymore. Allie is now engaged to a decent lawyer, Lon, and Noah has already back from the war. Noah successfully restored his dream plantation house to its glory and made it published along with his picture in newspaper. Allie who was having a wedding preparation took by surprise seeing Noah's with his dream house on an article. She decided that she had to see him again. She lied to his fiancé about her trip to North Carolina and said that she looked for antiques.

Allie has finally showed up at Noah's doorstep. They spent some time together and they wind falling back in love. Her mother showed up at the house and had a discussion with her. Allie is left with a huge decision, stay with her fiancé or leave him for Noah. She made up her mind after reading all of the letters her mother had kept from her years ago. She showed up at Noah's house and chose him.

However, the story does not end here. Decades having passed, the elderly Allie is now severely struck by Alzheimer's disease. Although Noah is not in the best shape himself, he keeps on reading a notebook to Allie every day which records the story of their romance, hoping to bring back her memory.